

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are amended. Support for the amendments to independent claims 1, 2, 9 and 11 may be found on p. 18, lines 14-19 of the specification, and also in claim 3, which is hereby canceled. Claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are also amended for further clarity. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 11 and 12 are amended to obviate the Office Action's rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully solicited.

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 5, 7 and 8 are amended to obviate the Office Action's rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully solicited.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Akira (JP 2000-285203) and claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Akira. This rejection is moot with respect to canceled claim 3 and traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

Office Action only cites the Abstract of Akira and does not provide an English language translation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a translation of Akira and cite to the detailed description. See MPEP §706.02 (II)¹.

Akira is directed to an information transmission method using paper incorporating an IC chip. See paragraph [0012]. For example, a visually impaired person receiving an

¹ MPEP §706.02 (II) reads in part "Citation of and reliance upon an abstract without citation of and reliance upon the underlying scientific document is generally inappropriate[.]" and "[i]f the document is in a language other than English and the examiner seeks to rely on that document, a translation must be obtained so that the record is clear as to the precise facts the examiner is relying upon in support of the rejection."

advertisement can use a device to read information from a chip in the advertisement and generate helpful sounds. See paragraphs [0037]-[0042] and Drawings 5 and 6.

The Office Action asserts that Akira discloses processing the read image on the basis of the read data. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Akira does not disclose or suggest an image process unit for synthesizing the read image with the read data, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 2, 9 and 11.

The Office Action only cites the Abstract of Akira to support its assertion that Akira discloses the subject matter cited above. However, the Abstract only discloses inputting image data, printing pixel data onto paper, writing data onto an IC, and then reading the data from the IC. For example, an advertisement that plays a helpful sound when a visually impaired person reads the advertisement with a reading device does not also synthesize the read image with the read data, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 2, 9 and 11. Furthermore, nothing in Akira discloses or suggests an image process unit for synthesizing the read image with the read data, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 2, 9 and 11.² Thus, Akira does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 2, 9 and 11.

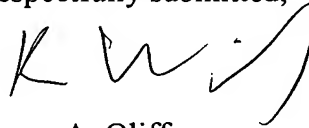
In view of the above, Akira does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 2, 9 and 11. Claims 4-8 ultimately depend from claim 2; claim 10 depends from claim 9; and claim 12 depends from claim 11. Thus, Akira does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 2 and 4-12. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully solicited.

² This assertion is based upon Applicants' current understanding of a machine translation of Akira.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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